

REMARKS

A. Request for Reconsideration

Applicant has carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action but remains of the position that patentable subject matter is present. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

B. The Invention

The present invention is directed to a UV ray curable ink and method of forming an image utilizing the ink.

In one of the novel aspects of the invention, the UV ink contains a cation polymerizable compound composed of an oxetane compound represented by Formula 7 and at least one of either an epoxy compound or a vinyl ether compound.

The cation polymerizable compound of the invention provides high sensitivity since polymerization is not inhibited by oxygen (page 14, lines 3-8).

C. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-5, 14, 15, 19 and 20 are presented for further prosecution. Claims 6-13 and 16-18 have been cancelled by this amendment.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 6, 7 and 11 and Claims 6, 7 and 11 have been canceled.

Claim 1 now recites that the polymerizable compound is a cation polymerizable compound composed of an oxetane compound represented by Formula 7 and at least one of either an epoxy compound or a vinyl ether compound.

Adding Claim 11 to Claim 1 caused the cancellation of Claims 8-10, 12, and 13. Additionally, adding Claim 6 to Claim 1 caused the cancellation of Claims 16-18. Claim 14 has been amended to depend on claim 1 since claim 6 has been cancelled.

Applicants respectfully request entry of these amendments since the subject matter of amended claim 1 has already been examined in the dependent claims. Thus, it is clear that no new matter has been added and no further search is required.

D. The Office Action

Claims 1-20 had been rejected as being anticipated by Laksin (US 6,232,361), Yasuo (JP 2002-188025) or Sanenobu (JP 2003-212965).

1. Laksin does not teach the polymer dispersant of claim 1

The Examiner had taken the position that Cyracure 6105 employed in Example 2 of Laksin is a polymer dispersant. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Cyracure 6105 is a cycloaliphatic diepoxide compound (see enclosed printout from Dow Chemical website). Laksin explains that a cycloaliphatic diepoxide compound is a cationic polymerizable compound (col. 3, line 26). Thus, Cyracure 6105 is the cationic polymerizable compound of Example 2 of Laksin, not the polymer dispersant as suggested by the Examiner.

Furthermore, each of the remaining compounds of Example 2 of Laksin are not polymer dispersants. For example, pigment blue is a pigment, EOXA is an oxetane compound (see col. 8, line 60 of Laksin) and Cyracure 6494 is an initiator (see col. 6, lines 19-43 of Laksin). Laksin therefore differs from claim 1 since Laksin does not teach an epoxy compound and a polymer dispersant.

Applicant therefore respectfully submits that Laksin does not contain a polymer dispersant and that the present invention is not anticipated by Laksin.

2. Laksin, Yasuo and Sanenobu do not teach or suggest Formula 7 of claim 1

Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite that the polymerizable compound is composed of an oxetane compound represented by Formula 7. Applicant respectfully submits that Laksin, Yasuo and Sanenobu do not teach or suggest an oxetane compound of Formula 7.

Yasuo teaches oxetane compounds in pars. 22-39, while Sanenobu teaches oxetane compounds in pars. 12-18. Also, the compounds XDO, POX and OXA in Table 1 in par. 61 of Yasuo are oxetane compounds. However, oxetane compounds that fall within the scope of Formula 7 of amended claim 1 are not disclosed by Laksin, Yasuo or Sanenobu.

Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 1 is not anticipated by Yasuo or Sanenobu.

E. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any extensions of

time or fees be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit Account # 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

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Encl: Cyracure UVR-6105 Cycloaliphatic Epoxide
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